

Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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JUL 08 1998

98-EAP-362

Mr. Michael A. Wilson, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P. O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600



Dear Mr. Wilson:

HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER (TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT) MILESTONE M-82-07 DISPUTE

The U. S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) has received the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) letter "Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-82-07, Rejection of Milestone Completion" dated June 29, 1998. This letter was received on July 2, 1998. Pursuant to Article VIII, RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES, of the Tri-Party Agreement, RL hereby gives notice of its objection to the determination.

The Ecology June 29, 1998, letter stated that "Ecology believes that the completion date of the milestone should have been set closer to the end of the B Plant transition process in order to produce a complete and accurate list." We agree and request that we begin a detailed exchange on the basis for the differences of the Parties. It is RL's understanding that during the negotiations which established the M-82 series milestones, Ecology and RL agreed this interim milestone's due date was established in advance of the end of B Plant transition so as to provide an early warning to both agencies in the event expected progress was not being made. Consequently, this milestone was not intended to provide a complete assessment of waste materials remaining in B Plant at the time of its completion. Rather, we believe that both agencies recognized that any "missing" information not provided by the report completing this milestone would be placed into the preclosure work plan prior to completion of the B Plant transition process and the M-82-00 major milestone.

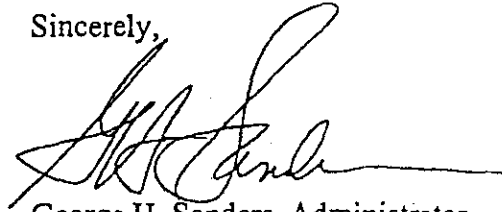
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We, too, are desirous of evaluating viable options for resolving the issue and look forward to meeting in the near future. If you have any questions, please contact me on (509) 376-6888 or Jon Yerxa of my staff on (509) 376-9628.

Sincerely,



George H. Sanders, Administrator
Hanford Tri-Party Agreement

EAP:JKY

cc: R. Jim, YIN
D. L. Powauke, Nez Perce Tribe
J. R. Wilkinson, CTUIR
D. R. Sherwood, USEPA
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